REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
(MSocSc)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Social Sciences in the academic year
2016-17 and thereafter.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that
the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (MSocSc) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory
completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Behavioral Health; Clinical
Psychology; Corporate Environmental Governance; Counselling; Criminology; Educational
Psychology; Gerontology; Media, Culture and Creative Cities; Mental Health; Nonprofit Management;
Psychology; Social Service Management; and Social Work. These fields of study will not necessarily
be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MSS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences,
candidates
(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall hold
   (i) a Bachelor’s degree with honours of this University; or
   (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University
        or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or
    comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination
    is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher
    degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
(d) shall satisfy any other admission requirements which may be specified for individual fields of
    study in the regulations below; and
(e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSS 1.1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences
in the fields of Behavioral Health, Counselling, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service
Management and Social Work, candidates shall preferably have had a minimum of two years
of post-qualification experience in the relevant fields, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation
MSS 1.

MSS 1.2 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences
in the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with honours with a
major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification, in addition to the requirements set out in
Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.3 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences
in the field of Criminology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with honours preferably with a major in the social sciences or
    humanities discipline; or
(b) shall preferably have working experience in the criminal justice system, social welfare agencies, or in other work with offenders, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.4 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with honours with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
(b) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
(c) shall preferably have relevant working experience in educational or related settings, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.5 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Nonprofit Management, candidates shall preferably have three years of relevant working experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.6 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold
   (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University (in a discipline other than psychology and without completion of any other programme in psychology which is designed to bring the honours degree holder up to the standard of a graduate majoring in psychology); or
   (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose (in a discipline other than psychology and without completion of any other programme in psychology which is designed to bring the honours degree holder up to the standard of a graduate majoring in psychology);
(b) shall preferably have more than one year of working experience; and
(c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and interview if shortlisted, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MSS 3. A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates’ formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.

(b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

MSS 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates
(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
(b) shall complete the programme as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

Period of study
MSS 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study; or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below.

MSS 5.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.2 In the field of Counselling, the programme shall normally extend over two or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years for the two-year part-time study or four academic years for the three-year part-time study.

MSS 5.3 In the field of Criminology, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.4 In the field of Educational Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years for both full-time and part-time study.

MSS 5.5 In the fields of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.6 In the field of Nonprofit Management, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.7 In the fields of Mental Health, Social Service Management, and Social Work, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 6. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in the above regulations, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Advanced Standing

MSS 7. Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

(a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and

(b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

Exemption
MSS 8. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

Progression in curriculum

MSS 9. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

Completion of curriculum

MSS 10. To complete the curriculum, candidates
(a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
(c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
(d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

Dissertation and Capstone project

MSS 11. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 10(c), the title of the dissertation or capstone project shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation or capstone project shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation or capstone project represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment

MSS 12. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MSS 13.
(a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation or a capstone project shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
(b) An assessment of the candidates’ coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates’ result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.
MSS 14. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MSS 15. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course; or
(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MSS 16. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 10(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project within a specified period.

MSS 17. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work/practical work/internship may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in field work/practical work/internship within a specified period.

MSS 18. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate’s absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year’s examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MSS 19. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MSS 20. Candidates who
(a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSS 15; or
(b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
(c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
(d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
(e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration.

may be required to discontinue their studies.

MSS 20.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates who have failed two external placements or the second attempt of either the external placement or internal practicum may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading systems

MSS 21. Individual courses shall be graded according to the one of the following grading systems:

(a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

or

(b) ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail’.

Courses graded according to (b) above shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

Classification of awards

MSS 22. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates’ degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEDIA, CULTURE AND CREATIVE CITIES

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences degree in the field of Media, Culture and Creative Cities. The programme shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

ASSESSMENT

Candidates are assessed by 100% coursework (which may include written tests) in each course, unless stated otherwise.
To receive the award of Master of Social Sciences degree in the field of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, candidates have to complete 8 courses (6 credits each) and a capstone project (12 credits), with a total of 60 credits. The first year programme provides candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of media, culture, and creative cities. The second year, building upon that foundation, introduces the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in creative industries and related media and cultural issues.

In the first year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by written examination and coursework in each of the following compulsory courses:

- SOCI7005. Theories of media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)
- SOCI7006. Research methods in media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)
- SOCI7007. Globalization and the cultural mosaic: an Asian perspective (6 credits)
- SOCI7008. Critical issues of media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)

and in the second year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by coursework in 4 of the following elective courses:

- SOCI8011. Media and Crime (6 credits)
- SOCI8023. Media and popular culture in Asian cities (6 credits)
- SOCI8024. New media and digital culture (6 credits)
- SOCI8025. Consumer cultures and everyday life (6 credits)
- SOCI8026. Self-identity and late-modern society (6 credits)
- SOCI8027. Body, intimacy and sexuality (6 credits)
- SOCI8028. Cultural policies and global cities (6 credits)
- SOCI8029. Creative industries and creative cities (6 credits)
- SOCI8031. Special topics in media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)

and to complete the following capstone experience course:

- SOCI8030. Capstone project (12 credits)

Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any given year.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the syllabus of this programme with a course or courses offered by other departments in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Curriculum Development Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the syllabus of this programme. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than two courses from other departments in the University. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates’ overall course of study.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Compulsory Courses**

**SOCI7005. Theories of media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)**
This compulsory course introduces the key thinkers, traditions, and current debates in the sociology and cultural studies of media and culture in the world city context. It explores the centrality of the role of media, culture, and creativity in contemporary social life and its intricate relationships with the city at an advanced level. You will comprehend media and culture as an industry or institution with specific modes of production and ownership, consumption patterns and practices, and rules of control and regulation. You will examine media and cultural representations, as well as socially constructed identities. You will explore media and culture as a “way of life” comprised of social reflective practices that entail creativity and pleasure, as well as politics and resistance. In other words, this course will look into the key issues of political economy, representation, politics, and practices of media and culture, addressing the power dynamics and complexities of the city, and examining the importance of creativity in the context of globalization. This course serves as a roadmap to other courses in this programme.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI7006. Research methods in media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)**

This course offers you the chance to look at different ways of researching media, culture, and creative cities through a range of disciplines, most notably sociology, anthropology, and media and cultural studies. It examines the whole research process, starting from research methodology, to research design, sampling and methods used, to data collection, data analysis and report writing. In particular, various methods will be introduced such as survey, content analysis, ethnography, in-depth interview, life history, reception studies, textual analysis, and deconstruction. Key debates in research methodology such as representation, legitimation, and reflexivity will be discussed. Students will learn the methods for analyzing the media, cultural industries and their products, studying audiences and consumers, charting broader cultural trends, and examining the cultural environment of creative cities. The course helps students put theory “to work” and trains students to become independent researchers who are well-informed at both the theoretical and methodological level.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI7007. Globalization and the cultural mosaic: an Asian perspective (6 credits)**

Globalization refers to the increasing flow of people, goods, commodities, economic activity, technologies, media, values, and belief systems on a global scale. People are becoming more aware of the global connectivity of economic, cultural, political, and social activities in different parts of the world. Recent studies focus on the dynamics of this global flow in shaping the emerging world order. This course aims to provide students with a broader and deeper understanding of the issues related to globalization from an Asian perspective. It takes a serious look at this emerging global map by examining the social, cultural, and creative interface of global, domestic, and trans-border cultures in Asia. The discussions are arranged under three major themes, which included (1) city and state; (2) new communities and cultural exchanges; and (3) globalization vs. regionalization. Specific Asian cities such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore will be investigated.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI7008. Critical issues of media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)**

This course examines critical issues of media, culture, and creative cities, with a particular focus on Hong Kong city. The purpose is to shed light on relevant issues of modern life by drawing on some of the key concepts and findings in the related fields. While the issues to be discussed will vary from year to year, they will all touch upon important facets of media operation, cultural dynamics, city regeneration, and creative development. In particular, the course will look at media regulation and freedom of speech, heritage and urban planning, time and collective memory, post-colonial identity and nationalist imaginations, youth cultures and lifestyles, global consumption and local community, new forms of intimacy, the beauty myth and diet culture, creative industries, city branding, the West
Kowloon Cultural District, and Disneyland. Selected topics will be taught by different instructors with relevant special expertise. Students will form small groups to work on the presentation of a chosen topic. Emphasis will be put on using contemporary media, cultural, and urban theories to interpret and understand social and cultural phenomena in Hong Kong, and extend discussions to other Asian cities such as Beijing, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**Elective Courses**

**SOCI8011. Media and crime (6 credits)**

The media plays an extremely influential role in the public’s conceptions of crime and order. This course aims to provide students with a better understanding of theories about the media’s impact on crime, the news making process in relation to crime, and how the media shapes our ideas and responses to crime. The course also focuses on the relationship between crime and cultural dynamics with a focus on representations of crime in popular culture, particularly in films and novels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8023. Media and popular culture in Asian cities (6 credits)**

This course addresses the social, political, cultural, and creative dynamics of the modern communication media – TV, film, music, radio, the press, and other new media technologies – and their impacts on popular culture in Hong Kong and other Asian cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore. It enables you to critically examine how media and popular culture construct our identities, shape everyday life, and generate public debates. Topics include the media; sex and violence; consumption and youth cultures, romance and gender identity; regimes of body management; desire and social identities; lifestyle distinctions and social hierarchy; on-line communication and cyber personas; media events and imagined communities; new media and technologies; and the commercialization of arts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8024. New media and digital culture (6 credits)**

This course explores the nature and impact of new media in the era of digital culture. Special attention is paid to the interactivity of media, particularly in regard to how the internet and mobile technology has changed the visions and practices of commerce, entertainment, work, social interactions, news-making, artistic creation and distribution, group formation, the spread of knowledge, identity building, political participation, legal regulation, and global social movements. We shall examine questions such as: How do new media facilitate new creative ventures and cultural expressions? How do social media interact with political power? In what ways are activities on the Internet – social networking, bookmarking, crowdsourcing, (micro)blogging, media sharing, online journalism, and open source movements – building a new form of “social self” and “public sphere”? In what ways does “cyberspace” function as a source of knowledge and wisdom, a network of connectivity and community, a new civil society, and a form of “trans-local” “globalization from below”? And what are the implications of this new digital world in terms of individualized entertainment, segregated communication, and current and potential power centers such as the state and multi-media corporations? The related conceptual debates will be assessed with reference to empirical findings from a burgeoning body of evidence-based studies in this field. Experiences from different global cities will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework
SOCI8025. Consumer cultures and everyday life (6 credits)

Consumption is an important part of modern life. This course examines the role of consumer culture in the modern commodity economy. It offers you a chance to revisit classical theorists in the context of consumption (e.g., Marx, Weber, Campbell, Veblen, Simmel), as well as some more contemporary thinkers (e.g., Marcuse, Bourdieu, Baudrillard). It will look at the changing roles of street culture, department stores and shopping malls, theme parks, and urban and suburban ways of life in the context of recent discussions regarding the interactive media and global consumption politics. In particular, the course will show how consumption in everyday life generates a fascinating mix of homogeneity, difference, hybridity, commerce, and democratization for modern people in major creative cities.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8026. Self-identity and late-modern society (6 credits)

This course traces the rise of the notion of self-identity in the modern era and follows it through to contemporary times. Various notions of identity and their relationships will be discussed: personal identity, social identity, cultural identity, collective identity, national identity, etc. We will explore the changing experiences and meanings of collective and personal identities in late modern culture in domains such as work, family, religion, society, and the nation. We pay particular attention to the emergence of various contemporary identities in relation to the formation of creative class and creative culture. This will enable us to rethink the distinction between the public and the private, explore the social construction of the life course, the notion of cultural identity, the relationship between identity and creativity, and the dynamics of identity politics and new social movements in terms of age, body, class, religion, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and more. The focus is on contemporary Hong Kong and Chinese experiences as well as other cities in the Asia/Pacific region, such as Singapore, Seoul, and Tokyo.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8027. Body, intimacy and sexuality (6 credits)

This course aims to investigate the significant changes happening in the private sphere of intimacy in late-modern times, paying particular attention to Chinese cities such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and other Asian cities such as Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo, Bangkok, and Singapore. Drawn from various disciplines such as feminism, gay and lesbian studies, queer theory, and contemporary theory of body, this course critically reviews a number of key issues: the debate of biological drive/social force in shaping sexual identity, gender difference and intimate behavior; the dynamics of agency/structure in understanding sexual performances and body practices; the development of sexual politics and movements; mainstreaming of sexuality and media representation; and commercialization of desires. This course also pays more attention to the newly emerging scripts that seem to shape femininity/masculinity, romantic love, intimate relationship, and family patterns.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8028. Cultural policies and global cities (6 credits)

This course covers three different scopes of cultural policy, beginning with government supports for the arts, then the invention of creative industry policies and finally cultural citizenship. There has been an international trend of introducing entrepreneurialism into cultural policies in recent decades. Policies, involving both the government and civic organizations thus are formulated in order to enhance the competitiveness of nations and cities through various cultural projects. Global cities such as London, New York, Paris, Brussels, and Tokyo are seen to be capable of assuming a leading role in the cultural development and promotion of urban entrepreneurialism. This course examines comparatively how different policies evolve under different social and historical conditions, and how global cities redevelop their urban and cultural resources in order to sharpen their competitiveness in the context of global cities.
the inter-city competition of a global economy, and explores how such experiences could be applied to Hong Kong. Topics to be covered in this course include entrepreneurialism, strategies of urban redevelopment, urban culture, and urban competitiveness. Students will also reflect on the problems associated with cultural, urban and creative development.
Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8029. Creative industries and creative cities (6 credits)**

This course explores the structures, processes, and cultural artifacts of the creative industries (performing arts, film and television, publishing, art and antique markets, music, architecture, digital entertainment, computer software development, animation production, fashion, and product design) and how they figure in the strategic repositioning of the city. It offers students a chance to critically examine the political economy and spatial organization of these industries of culture in different creative cities of the world. It also opens up debates generated by the intersection between culture, economy, and the city, such as high and low culture, innovation and standardization, capitalist dominance and democratic pluralism, authenticity and mechanical reproduction, power and resistance, the role of the creative class in city growth and regeneration, engineering and imagineering creative cities, cultural planning, and the city as a marketplace, sustaining the livable city.
Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOCI8031. Special topics in media, culture and creative cities (6 credits)**

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of current or newly emerging topics in media, culture and creative city. The course enables new subject or sub-specialist areas to be offered. It also facilitates innovative modes of teaching and learning. Subjects may inter alia, include:

- Visual sociology and anthropology
- Sensory cultures
- Emotion and affect
- Posthumanities and ethics
- Biomedicine and biotechnology
- New media, subjectivity and performativity
- New thinkers in cultural studies
- Risk, reflexivity and sustainable development
- Critical pedagogy in media and culture
- Body, place and flow – new directions in cultural studies
- Private self and public sphere
- Workshops in presenting and representing culture

Assessment: 100% coursework

**Capstone Experience Course (Compulsory)**

**SOCI8030. Capstone project (12 credits)**

This course aims to teach students how to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme. Students will conduct a research project in close collaboration with community partners in the field of media, culture, and creative cities. Students select a topic from the list suggested by community partners and work on it over two semesters. The topics will relate to a variety of analytical, practical, and policy issues in the field. Sample topics may include: assessing the use of the web platform for preserving local history, the role of public engagement in cultural conservation
projects, funding an international film festival, independent film making in the age of media convergence, radio broadcast after digitalization, gender identity and consumer culture in South China, the application of new media art in commercial settings, cultural clusters and art districts in Asia, a proposal for setting up a crafts museum in Hong Kong, and cultural policy after the West Kowloon Cultural District.

Students will work under the guidance of a manager in the community, as well as a designated academic supervisor from the Department. Students can work individually or in groups, depending on the nature and scale of the project. Assessment will be based on a final written report and an oral presentation. The capstone project shall be submitted and presented not later than July 31 of the final academic year of study.
Assessment: 100% coursework